



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** February 5, 2008

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** Professional Services Contracts For The Laguna Channel Watershed  
And Water Quality Improvement Feasibility Study

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council:

- A. Authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to execute a professional services agreement with Geosyntec Consultants in the amount of \$105,344 for conducting a watershed study and feasibility analysis; and
- B. Authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to execute a professional services agreement with the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) in the amount of \$49,992 to conduct the microbial source tracking component of the watershed study.

### DISCUSSION:

#### Project Description

The purpose of the Laguna Channel Watershed and Water Quality Improvement Feasibility Study is to identify project(s) that will lead to improved water quality at East Beach. Flow from the Laguna Channel is known to contribute to high bacterial levels and associated beach warnings at East Beach. The City and its consultants will first conduct a watershed study of the Laguna watershed. The overall goals of the study are to quantify the sources of water and loads of bacterial pollution entering the Laguna Channel. Field work will include water sampling and flow measurements in storm drains, the Laguna Channel, and the Laguna Lagoon.

Using background information and data from the watershed study, the lead consultant will identify the most appropriate project(s) for reducing the flux of harmful microorganisms entering the Laguna Lagoon and East Beach in dry weather. The feasibility study will consider total project cost, lifetime maintenance costs, power consumption, degree of pollutant reduction, and ease of construction. The study will include a review of ozone disinfection at the outlet of Laguna Channel, among other options. After the best

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REVIEWED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Finance \_\_\_\_\_ Attorney

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alternatives for improving water quality have been identified, preliminary design will be completed under a separate contract. Final design and construction will occur in the second phase of the project, for which additional grant funding will be requested.

### Consultant Selection

The Creeks Division and Creeks Advisory Committee recommend sole-source selection of two consultants to complete the watershed study and feasibility analysis. Geosyntec Consultants is recommended to complete the watershed study and feasibility analysis. Geosyntec is a national environmental consulting firm with a local office in Santa Barbara that has extensive experience conducting watershed studies and evaluating best management practices and treatment options for urban runoff. The Creeks Division believes that local experience and the capacity for rapid mobilization will be essential to complete this project successfully. Among local firms, Geosyntec Consultants has the greatest focus and level of experience with projects related to storm water runoff and non-point source pollution. The company has a proven record in assessing hydrology and water quality at the watershed scale and has demonstrated success in selecting cost-effective solutions for reducing beach warnings.

The Creeks Division and Creeks Advisory Committee also recommend sole-source selection of Dr. Patricia Holden and her research group at UCSB to conduct the microbial source tracking portion of the watershed study. The Creeks Division has worked with Dr. Holden in the study of the Arroyo Burro and Mission Creek watersheds, and requires that the data analysis methods for the Laguna Watershed Study be compatible with the data that has already been generated. In addition, the requirement for local knowledge and capacity for rapid mobilization further support the selection of UCSB.

### Timeline

Field sampling for the watershed study will be conducted during spring and summer 2008. The feasibility analysis will be conducted from September 2008 to March 2009. Preliminary design and environmental review will be completed by December 2009.

### **BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

The combined cost of the watershed study and feasibility analysis contracts is \$155,336. The total cost of the project, however, is \$268,400. The additional costs include project management, preliminary design, and environmental review. The Creeks Division anticipates receiving a grant of \$220,000 for the project and will provide a match of \$48,400 from the existing capital budget.

Per City Council Resolution No. 07-033, which was approved on May 19, 2007, the Creeks Division submitted a \$220,000 grant agreement to the Clean Beaches Initiative Proposition 50 Grant Program of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for the project. The grant agreement includes the cost to complete the watershed study, feasibility analysis, preliminary design, and environmental review.

Although the grant agreement will not be signed until March 2008 (due to a backlog in grant processing at the State office), staff recommends moving forward with the contracts as soon as possible. There are storm water treatment funds in the Creeks Division Capital Program that can be applied to this project until the grant funds are received. Beginning the watershed study as soon as possible will allow background information to be gathered and utilized effectively prior to field sampling.

The Creeks Division has received assurances from the SWRCB that the grant agreement will be processed and that project expenditures incurred prior to receiving the signed grant agreement will be reimbursed. Based on the approval of the grant by the SWRCB, staff is also confident that the grant agreement will be signed. If, for some reason the City does not receive the grant agreement, then the Creeks Division would incur the watershed study costs.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:**

Improving the quality of water in creeks within the City is critical for protection of water quality at the beaches. The goal of the project is to improve water quality at East Beach.

**PREPARED BY:** Cameron Benson, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager

**SUBMITTED BY:** Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office